of vehicles has been increasing during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith production capacity of cars, trucks, scooters, tractors and buses of different make in the country;

(c) the number of industrial units which have been sanctioned to undertake production of vehicles with foreign investment; and

(d) the total investment made therein?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of different types of vehicles in the last three years has been as follows :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Commercial Vehicles	1,41,436	1,94,999	2,59,131
Car and Jeeps	2,59,591	3,13,739	4,15,921
Three Wheelers	91,608	1,33,693	1,73,412
Two Wheelers	17,56,155	21,95,260	26,56,017
Tractors	1,37,608	1,62,900	2,10,000

According to the Association of Indian Automobile Manufacture Association, the production capacity in various automotive sectors is as under :

Commercial vehicles	-	9,18,000 per annum
Cars/Jeeps/2/3 wheelers	-	44,70,000 per annum
Tractors	-	1,71,800 per annum

(c) 15 proposals for foreign investment have been approved by the Government for manufacture of Vehicles.

(d) Details of investment of individual undertaking are not maintained by the Government centrally.

[English]

Manufacture of Soaps and Detergents

1229. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign and domestic large scale industries involved in the manufacture of soaps and detergents;

(b) whether the Government propose to consider this industry exclusively for the small scale sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to establish such small units in all the districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) There are around 15 large-scale units engaged in the manufacturing of soaps and detergents including some units set-up with foreign equity participation.

Laundry soap is reserved for exclusive development in the small scale sector. Manufacture of toilet soaps and detergents is not reserved for the small scale sector and is de-licensed in terms of the New Industrial Policy. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reserve toilet soaps and detergents industries exclusively for the small scale sector.

Regulation of investment and production has been substantially liberalised under the New Industrial Policy and procedural requirements governing industrial approvals have been considerably simplified. These measures have transformed the business environment and opened up the economy to greater domestic and foreign investment. It is, therefore, left to the individual entrepreneurs to avail themselve of the facilities offered by the respective State Governments for setting up of units at different locations. They can avail of all the facilities/concessions available to Small Scale Sector.

[Translation]

Benches of High Courts

1230. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the States in which Benches of High Courts have been set up during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the said benches and their jurisdictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) One permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court was established at Shillong on 4.2.95 and its jurisdiction is over the State of Meghalaya.

[English]

Loans to Foreign Countries

1231. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans given to foreign countries by the Union Government during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the names of the countries who have not repaid the full loan; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The following countries have availed of GOI Credits during the last three years :

Country/Year		Amount		
Tajikistan	(1994)	US$	5	Mn
Mauritius	(1994)	US$	3.2	Mn
Uzbekistan	(1994)	US$	10	Mn
Turkmenistan	(1995)	US$	5	Mn
Kazakhstan	(1995)	US$	10	Mn
Kyrghzstan	(1995)	US$	5	Mn
Turkmenistan	(1995)	US$	10	Mn
Sri Lanka	(1996)	US$	15	Mn
Vietnam	(1996)	US$	90	Crores
Sri Lanka	(1997)	US$	15	Mn
Mauritius	(1997)	US$	3	Mn

(b) The period of scheduled repayment which is generally spread over a period of 12 years including 3 years moratorium for capital goods and 3 years for consumer durables/consultancy services including one year's moratorium is yet to expire.

(c) Does not arise.

Policy for Pension and Provident Fund

1232. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in the policy for deployment of pension and Provident Funds for investment in the capital market to induct liquidity into the system and ensuring better return to the employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the implications of the changes proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Labour, on the recommendations of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, has proposed certain changes in the policy for deployment of pension and provident funds, in order to increase the earnings of the Funds. The matter is under consideration.

Probe into Bank Collusion in Shoe Scam

1233. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 533 Dated November 22, 1996 regarding "probe into banks collusion in shoe scam" and state ;

(a) whether the information has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Assurance given to Unstarred Question No. 533 dated 22nd November, 1996. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that a communication has been received from Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mumbai stating that an offence under IPC has been registered against some leading shoe companies and various leather cooperative societies to investigate into the alleged misutilisation of finance meant for weaker sections of society such as artisans/cobblers co-operative societies. The policy has not referred to irregularities on the part of financing banks.

As desired by the policy authorities, RBI, in January, 1997, has advised all concerned commercial banks to supply the details of transactions, from 1980 onwards, with any of the listed cobbler co-operative societies. The banks are in the process of supplying the above information. RBI have also reiterated to the banks that while sanctioning/disbursing loans and advances and other facilities under priority sector to artisans/their cobblers' societies, they are expected to ensure that the applicants are genuine and are engaged in the activity for which the particular scheme is designed. Banks have also been advised that none of the procedures (including verification of genuinese of the borrowing parties) laid down for grant of loans/advances should be overlooked merely because guarantee have been obtained therefore. It has also been reiterated to banks that they are expected to have an effective post-disbursement supervision and follow-up of laons/ advances to ensure the end use of funds/loans.

Disbursements by Financial Institutions

1234. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aggregate assistance sanctioned by the financial institutions in the country during 1995-96 has registered an increase over the sanction of previous year;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned to States by the financial institutions during the above period and